

PROJECT H3: Home, Health, Hope

A Regional Initiative in Maricopa County



PROJECT H3
home health hope

Who:

Project H3: Home, Health Hope is a collaborative effort of community leaders from the non-profit, governmental and business communities in the Greater Phoenix area striving to end homelessness in our communities. The Project H3 Implementation Team is led by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness and consists of over 50 individual members representing the following organizations, agencies and entities:

- A New Leaf
- Arizona Behavioral Health Corp.
- Arizona Housing, Inc.
- Arizona Housing Alliance
- ASU Morrison Institute
- ASU School of Nursing
- AZ Dept. of Economic Security
- AZ Dept. of Housing
- AZ Dept. of Veterans Services
- CASS
- City of Glendale
- City of Mesa
- City of Phoenix
- City of Tempe
- Community Bridges
- Community Info & Referral
- Foundation for Senior Living
- Health Care for the
- HOM, Inc.
- HomeBase Youth Services
- Lodestar Day Resource
- Madison St. Veterans Assoc
- Magellan Health Svcs of AZ
- MAG Continuum of Care
- Mesa United Way
- Native American Connections
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Southwest Behavioral Health
- S.T.A.R. Centers
- Tumbleweed Center for Youth
- UMOM New Day Centers
- Urban Outreach
- U.S. VETS
- Valley of the Sun United Way

3/17/10

What:

Project H3 is working alongside Common Ground, a non-profit organization from New York, as part of their *100,000 Homes Campaign*. In April 2010, community volunteers will use Common Ground's **Vulnerability Index** tool to create a by-name list of homeless individuals living on the streets who are most at risk of premature death.

- In order to be considered medically vulnerable, and individual must have been living on the streets for at least 6 months and have at least one of the following 8 factors:
 - Liver Disease
 - End-stage Renal Disease
 - HIV+/AIDS
 - Age over 60
 - History of Cold or Wet Weather Injury
 - 3+ ER visits in previous 3 months
 - 3+ Inpatient or ER episodes in past year
 - Tri-Morbidity (substance abuse + SMI + chronic disease)
- We will create a by name and photograph database (with a signed consent form) of those surveyed, which will rank order participants according to the Vulnerability Index.
- The Outreach Subcommittee will identify targeted local communities where surveys will take place
 - High density, high visibility areas as identified by professional outreach teams and the Homeless Street Count data from January 26, 2010.
 - Regional approach will include surveys in multiple cities. We will survey in the East Valley, the West Valley, and in Phoenix.
- Project H3's initial aim is to provide permanent supportive housing for the **50 most medically vulnerable** as identified by the Vulnerability Index by April 2011.

When:

Project H3 Survey Week is April 19-23, 2010

- Monday, April 19th – 4-6 PM Training on motivational interviewing & Vulnerability Index tool from Common Ground's 100,000 Homes Campaign Leadership Team
- Tuesday - Thursday mornings, April 20th -22nd – Meeting at 3:30 AM (Phoenix or Mesa), surveying 4-6
- Friday, April 23rd – Community briefings with survey results – Public forum with broad based political and community support to house those identified in the surveys

To volunteer to help with Survey Week, please register at <http://www.azceh.org/PH3.html>.

Why:

This prioritization will help our communities better allocate scarce housing and supportive service resources to those most in need, thereby saving lives and impacting communities through an immediate reduction in street homelessness and use of high cost emergency and crisis services.

How:

Project H3 is a "Housing First" model project which seeks to rapidly re-house homeless persons in permanent housing connected to wrap-around supportive services appropriate to the individual's needs.

- Current housing opportunities include VASH vouchers (Veterans), Supportive Housing "vouchers" from ABC (Serious Mental Illness), and project based units from Arizona Housing, Inc.
- The Project H3 Implementation Team is seeking **support and ideas** from local housing providers to use "mainstream" housing resources for this targeted population; including housing choice vouchers, public housing, project based Section 8 assistance, HOME funds, and/or other housing resources
 - The HUD FY 2011 budget emphasizes the use of "mainstream" housing resources to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness
 - 10,000 new incremental housing choice vouchers for demonstration project – competitive for PHA's with demonstrated partnerships with homeless service and supportive service systems
 - Webcast on What the 2011 HUD Budget Does to Address Homelessness, February 4, 2010 at <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/webcasts/archives>

Additional Information:

To learn more about Project H3, please visit <http://www.azceh.org/PH3.html>.

Project H3's goals are consistent with and support the MAG Regional Plan to End Homelessness and Valley of the Sun United Way's Permanent Supportive Housing initiative.

This project model is replicable statewide and has already seen successful implementation in other parts of the country, including Hartford, CT; Washington D.C.; Fort Worth, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Denver, CO, and Charlotte, NC.

Denver surveyed 276 homeless individuals during the week of February 8, 2010. 44% of those surveyed met at least one criterion of the Vulnerability Index and had been on the streets for an average of 4.6 years. 20% were Veterans. Immediately following the survey, the Veterans Administration in Denver committed 55 VASH vouchers for those Veterans identified in the survey.

At a national level, this model has the support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Project H3: Home, Health, Hope has launched a group page on Facebook.com at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=231178836390&ref=mf&v=info#!/group.php?gid=302450642571&ref=nf>

Similar initiatives are beginning in Tucson, Flagstaff, and Yuma. For more information please contact Mattie Lord (602) 542-9949 or MLord@azdes.gov or Karia Basta karia.basta@azhousing.gov.

Project H3 is grateful to the following sponsors:

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